E-Doc

Atlantic Richfield Company

Atlantic Richfield Company

4 Centerpointe Drive, 4-435
La Palma, CA 90623
Direct: (714) 228-6770

June 5, 2013

Mr. Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Program (8EPR-SA)
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Delivered via e-mail

Subject: May 2013 Monthly Progress Report
Rico-Argentine Mine Site – Rico Tunnels
Operable Unit OU01, Rico, Colorado

Dear Mr. Way,

This progress report describes activities conducted during the month of May, 2013 at the Rico-Argentine Mine Site (site) and activities anticipated to occur during the upcoming month. These activities are organized by task as identified in the Removal Action Work Plan. This progress report is being submitted in accordance with Paragraph 35.a of the Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action (the "UAO"), dated March 17, 2011.

ACTIVITIES FOR MAY

This section describes significant developments during the preceding period including actions performed and any problems encountered during this reporting period.

Site-Wide Activities

- A webinar was held between representatives of Atlantic Richfield and U.S. EPA on May 23, 2012 to provide the U.S. EPA with a status update on the wetland demonstration; further discuss the Site Conceptual Model (SCM), including surface water / groundwater interaction, interpretation of calcines data collected, and approaches to addressing the various data gaps; and summarize upcoming deliverables.
- Digital archives continue to be reviewed by the Atlantic Richfield project team for information that may provide a better understanding of the site. Search strategies continue to be refined to maximize to the extent feasible the recovery of information of potential use to the project team. A database of the searches performed is in development to document the use of the digital archive.
- A refined SharePoint site has been developed, tested and rolled-out to the project team to store and share project documents. https://www.aecomonline.net/projects/Rico
- Continued avalanche hazard studies of the St. Louis Ponds Site and the Argentine Mill Site/Access Road.

Task A – Pre-Design and Ongoing Site Monitoring

- Submitted and posted the January Surface Water Sampling Report and cross sectional transect data to the project SharePoint site. https://www.aecomonline.net/projects/Rico
- Preparing and reviewing February, March and April Surface Water Sampling Reports and cross sectional transect data prior to submittal to EPA and posting to the project SharePoint site.
- The May water sampling event was initiated on May 15, 2013 and completed May 23, 2013.

- May sampling event groundwater samples and water levels were obtained from the following groundwater wells: GW-1, GW-3, GW-4, GW-5, GW-6, EB-1, EB-2, MW-101, MW-102, MW-103, MW-104, MW-204, CHV-101, P13-102, P13-103, MW-1 DEEP, MW-1 SHALLOW, MW-2 DEEP, MW-3 DEEP, MW-4 DEEP, MW-4 SHALLOW, MW-5 DEEP, MW-5 SHALLOW, MW-6 DEEP, and MW-6 SHALLOW. The following wells were found to be dry: MW-202, MW-2 SHALLOW, MW-3 SHALLLOW, and BAH-01.
- During the May sampling event, surface water samples were collected from locations DR-3, DR-4, DR-5 and DR-6.
- During the May sampling event, Dolores River water samples and flow measurements were collected from DR-2 and DR-7. Grab samples as well as multi-point composite samples were obtained from the two referenced river locations.
- During May, flumes were inspected for debris. The flumes were cleared as required.
- Downloaded available flume data for May 2013 from the Parshall flume data loggers. The most recent data was obtained from the OTT PLS pressure transducer and ultra-sonic level sensor at north flume (DR-3) and from OTT Orpheus Mini at south flume (DR-6).
- Data from the pressure transducer located in angle borehole AT-2 was collected.
- Conducted inspection of the pond system spillways, pipes, water levels and general conditions. Overall condition of the pond good. All spillways and pipes observed to be flowing without obstructions.
- Downloaded available data for May 2013 from the Doppler Radar Flow Meter installed at Dolores River station DR-1.
- Continued work on overall site Data Management System (EQuIS) development. A web-based system with site data which can be queried in a tabular format has been set up and is currently being tested and refined. A web-based system with site data which can be queried from a map is nearing completion.
- Continued evaluation of potential improvements on data gathering and telemetry.
- The Surface and Ground Water Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) have been updated to address EPA comments, newly installed wells and surface water sampling locations. The plans were submitted to EPA on May 30, 2013 by email and three hard copies provided by overnight mail.
- Continued development of the SCM.

Task B – Management of Precipitation Solids in the Upper Settling Ponds

- St. Louis adit discharge water continued to be diverted to Pond 15 during May 2013. Pond 18 has not been in use during May due to seeps and leakage from a partially buried historic plastic pipe between Pond 18 and 15 observed in November. Repairs of the Pond 18 pipe seep area scheduled for late June 2013.
- Pond 18 was closely monitored for seepage conditions and no leaks or seeps were observed. The pond is not currently in use.
- The St Louis Pond system embankments flow and general conditions were inspected during May 2013. The ponds had adequate freeboard through the month. Flow into and between the ponds is not blocked, and the overall condition of the embankments appears good.
- The Rico 2013 Solids Removal Work Plan for Pond 11 and 12 was completed and submitted to EPA for review on May 13, 2013. Three hard copies were submitted May 14, 2013 by overnight mail.
- Continued pre-qualification of Pond 11 and 12 solids removal contractors during April.
- Prepared and issued the Construction Invitation to Bid (ITB) for the Rico 2013 Solids Removal Work on May 24, 2013 and conducted the pre-bid meeting on-site May 31, 2013.

Task C – Design and Construction of a Solids Repository

- Began feasibility design of a phased solids repository at the SSR-A site based on concurrence reached by AR and EPA at the April 30, 2013 meeting.